GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1830
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2008
CONSTRUCTION WORK ON KATRA-DHARAM SECTION
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Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided to abandon work on Katra-Qazigund section in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the original plan of the project, the percentage of work completed so far and the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(d) the financial impact of the closure of the project?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS(DR. R. VELU)

(a)&(b): No, Sir. However, on part of the existing alignment several problems are being encountered due to failure of slopes and unstable strata. The geological and geo-technical studies have been undertaken in this stretch to explore the alternate alignment better in constructability and survivability. In view of this, the work from km. 30 to km. 144 on this stretch has been for the time being

suspended except construction of main approach roads.

(c): Katra-Qazigund section is a part of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla new line project. The new line has been planned to provide rail connectivity to Kashmir Valley via Katra, Qazigund, Srinagar and Baramulla. The overall progress of this project is about 40% and expenditure of Rs. 4732 crore has been incurred upto March, 2008.

(d): The project has not been closed. The work on part length between Katra and Qazigund has been temporarily suspended as mentioned in reply to part (a)&(b).